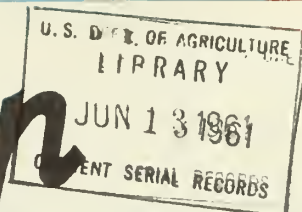


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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, MAY 29, 1961

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Growth Through Agricultural Progress

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS reports weekly on foreign crop and livestock production, consumption, prices, supplies, and trade. It is distributed free to persons in the United States who request it. If you no longer need this publication, please tear off the name-and-address imprint, write "Drop" on it, and send it to the Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 5922, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

GREECE PLANS INCREASE IN TOBACCO PLANTINGS

The Greek Governmental Tobacco Committee recently announced that growers will be permitted to plant about 267,000 acres to oriental-type tobacco in 1961.

The government's policy in recent years has been to hold oriental-type plantings at about 247,000 acres owing to the accumulation of excessive stocks. In 1960, however, plantings were well below that figure, because of unfavorable weather, and the 1960 harvest of about 140 million pounds will not provide quantities adequate to meet foreign and domestic demands.

The quality of the 1960 crop, which will begin moving into export channels in late 1961, is reported to be excellent.

In recent years, Greece has undertaken production of both flue-cured and burley tobaccos. The area planted in 1960 to flue-cured was 133 acres and to burley, 10 acres. Indications are that acreages for these tobaccos in 1961 will be 150 acres and 75 percent respectively. Rapid increases in plantings probably will not occur in the immediate future.

SALES OF AMERICAN-TYPE CIGARETTES RISE AGAIN IN EGYPT

American-type blended cigarettes accounted for 60 percent of Egypt's tobacco consumption in 1960.

This share compared with 54 percent in 1959 and only 36 percent in 1956. Sales of straight oriental cigarettes and straight flue-cured dropped. Factory-made oriental cigarettes accounted for only 8 percent of Egypt's consumption of all tobacco products in 1960.

PERUVIAN SMOKERS LIKE U.S. CIGARETTES

Over 350 million of the 2,861 million cigarettes consumed in Peru in 1960 were imported from the United States.

U.S. brands have gained popularity, and their consumption has more than doubled in the last 5 years. Output of cigarettes in Peru in 1960, at 2.5 billion pieces, was about the same as in recent years.

Cigarettes accounted for over 75 percent of the consumption of factory-made tobacco products in Peru. Most of the rest was smoking tobacco. About one million cigars were purchased in 1960, of which 300 thousand were imported from Cuba.

FRENCH TOBACCO IMPORTS DROP 13 PERCENT

France imported 58.5 million pounds of unmanufactured tobacco in 1960--13 percent less than the 67.1 million in 1959. Factory consumption of leaf in 1960 was larger than imports plus domestic production, so imports in 1961 may increase.

Leaf imports from within the French Union 1/ increased in 1960 while purchases from most other suppliers declined.

France took 13.7 million pounds from Algeria--57 percent more than the 8.7 million purchased in 1959. French leaf imports from Greece, Turkey, and Brazil dropped more sharply than purchases from the United States, which totaled 4.1 million pounds in 1960--25 percent less than in 1959.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: France, imports by country of origin,
1958-60

Country of origin	1958	1959	1960
	<u>1,000 pounds</u>	<u>1,000 pounds</u>	<u>1,000 pounds</u>
Algeria.....	12,762	8,676	13,724
Greece.....	10,081	12,167	8,314
Yugoslavia.....	7,316	9,261	6,845
Malagasy Republic.....	9,390	7,957	6,565
United States.....	6,716	5,607	4,114
Turkey.....	6,041	6,265	3,593
Bulgaria.....	2,998	4,101	3,439
Cameroon.....	2,539	2,418	2,028
Argentina.....	310	---	1,836
Brazil.....	3,393	4,753	1,728
Hungary.....	597	1,102	1,493
Italy.....	827	284	608
Rhodesias-Nyasaland.....	214	144	262
Others.....	5,780	4,371	3,952
Total.....	68,964	67,106	58,501

1/ The French Union includes Algeria, all the republics of former French West Africa and French Equatorial Africa (except Guinea), and other French overseas territories.

Source: Ministry of Finance, Customs Bureau.

SOUTH AFRICAN CITRUS EXPORTS MAY DROP

The South African Citrus Board estimates 1961 citrus exports at 9 million boxes, compared with 9.4 million last year. The decrease is due to a drought in the main producing areas.

TOBACCO SELLING FAST IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Auction sales of flue-cured tobacco at Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, through the eighth week of the current marketing season, totaled 49.4 million pounds. The average price per pound was equivalent to 38.0 U.S. cents. For the similar period last year, prices averaged 36.4 cents per pound.

SOUTH AFRICA RECOVERING FROM FLOOD DAMAGE

Recent flood damage to livestock areas in the Union of South Africa will probably exceed \$100 million, according to an unofficial estimate.

A few farmers suffered exceptionally heavy losses, especially--in the Karoo and North-western Cape areas, but for the majority, the rains--and even the attendant floods--were beneficial because they broke a 3-year drought.

Hundreds of thousands of sheep that were shipped to the Orange Free State, the Eastern Cape, and other parts of the country where grazing lands were still available are now being returned to farms in the Cape area.

Stock prices are going up, and farmers are willing to pay 3 times the price for breeding stock they would have a month ago.

Some farmers are concerned about drought damage to veld plants, estimating that the carrying capacity of their land has been reduced by as much as one-third because hardy bushes and shrubs have died. Several years will be required for the veld to recover fully from the drought and flood, according to some estimates.

CANADA'S OATS AND BARLEY EXPORTS DROP

Canadian exports of barley and oats from July 1960 through March 1961 totaled 519,000 metric tons--down 45 percent from the 942,000 shipped in the same period of 1959-60.

Canada, one of the largest exporters of barley, shipped 140,000 tons to Communist China in the past 2 months. Despite this new market, barley exports were down 43 percent from last year due largely to reduced trade with the United States, the United Kingdom, and Poland.

Oats shipments were down from 74,000 to 23,000 tons--a drop of 70 percent from the same period a year ago. Shipments to the United States, West Germany, and the Netherlands dropped sharply from last year but exports to the United Kingdom were up.

Corn exports were relatively small for the 2 comparable periods--a total of under 7,000 tons.

(Continued on following page)

OATS AND BARLEY: Canadian exports by country of destination,
July-March 1959-60 and July-March 1960-61

Country of destination	Oats	Barley	Total
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
July-March 1959-60:			
United States	12,965	206,842	219,807
Peru	--	1,996	1,996
Jamaica	27	--	27
Trinidad	--	--	--
Venezuela	300	--	300
Panama	45	--	45
Barbados	--	--	--
Belgium-Luxembourg	4,655	7,857	12,512
Germany, West	33,560	69,602	103,162
Italy	--	2,032	2,032
Netherlands	19,603	18,876	38,479
Poland	--	115,432	115,432
Switzerland	--	16,489	16,489
Denmark	--	8,637	8,637
United Kingdom	2,862	367,613	370,475
China, Communist	--	--	--
Union of South Africa	--	54	54
Japan	--	38,515	38,515
Syria	--	14,403	14,403
Total	74,017	868,348	942,365
July-March 1960-61:			
United States	7,026	157,958	164,984
Peru	--	1,499	1,499
Jamaica	--	--	--
Trinidad	41	--	41
Venezuela	82	--	82
Panama	91	--	91
Barbados	7	--	7
Belgium-Luxembourg	1,016	--	1,016
Germany, West	--	1,763	1,763
Italy	--	640	640
Netherlands	1,296	1,792	3,088
Poland	--	--	--
Switzerland	1,671	3,466	5,137
Denmark	--	--	--
United Kingdom	11,419	188,370	199,789
China, Communist	--	140,465	140,465
Union of South Africa	--	--	--
Japan	--	--	--
Syria	--	--	--
Total	22,649	495,953	518,602

MEXICAN SHIPMENTS OF WINTER VEGETABLES

Mexican winter vegetables crossed the border at Nogales, Arizona, between April 16 and April 30 in the following quantities (in thousands of pounds, with last year's shipments in parentheses): cucumbers, 242 (837); eggplant, 56 (19); garlic, 39 (403); cantaloupes, 11,465 (1,201); green peppers, 232 (587); squash, 52 (68); snap beans, 1,522 (621); tomatoes, 18,245 (27,016); and watermelons, 8,726 (6,884).

MOROCCO ASSESSES DROUGHT DAMAGE

In Morocco, the severe drought that began in February and continued through most of March has reduced the cereal crop by an estimated 25 percent in the north, 90 in the Marrakech area, and 100 in the extreme south.

Growing conditions were good during the fall of 1960 and January of 1961 in most of northern Morocco, but the drought began earlier in the extreme south. By the end of January, rainfall had exceeded normal expectations in most of the farming regions north of the Atlas Mountains. In the Sous Valley and other arable areas south of the Atlas abnormally low rainfall fell throughout the entire crop year.

Rain that came in late March was extremely beneficial to forage crops and spring planting, but was not sufficient to change prospects for the cereal crop. Anticipated production of principal cereals, with variations from the previous year shown in parentheses, are: durum wheat, 477,000 metric tons (-36 percent); soft wheat, 169,000 (-48); barley, 299,000 (-74); and corn, 366,000 (-10).

Herds and flocks have suffered greatly from lack of feed and water. Considerable liquidation of stock by forced sale has taken place, but few cases of outright starvation have been reported.

SOVIET BLOC COORDINATES PRODUCTION
OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania must greatly increase production of certain fruits, grapes, and vegetables for export.

These countries have been directed by the Bloc Council of Economic Mutual Assistance (CEMA) to specify in their 1961-65 trade agreements with other Bloc members the amount of such crops to be sold in the aforementioned period.

Particular attention must be given to increased production of early and late fruits. Albania was instructed to increase subtropical fruit production. Bulgaria, which produces a wide variety of fruits, was designated to emphasize peach and strawberry production. Hungary and Rumania were directed to increase apricot outturn, with emphasis on increased yields.

Grape production will continue along present lines, but a little more emphasis will be placed on the outturn of table grapes in Hungary and Rumania. These countries, however, will produce principally wine grapes, while Bulgaria will raise primarily table grapes and Albania table grapes and raisins.

All 4 countries will specialize in the production of hot-weather vegetables, such as tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants. They must also expand production of tomatoes, cucumbers, and other vegetables in hotbeds and greenhouses.

U.K. ANNOUNCES SEASONAL MINIMUM PRODUCER WHEAT PRICES

The British Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has announced seasonal minimum producer wheat prices ranging from 24s. 5d. to 29s 5d. per cwt. (U.S. \$1.82 to \$2.20 per bushel) for (July-June) 1961-62.

A separate price has been fixed for each of the 5 accounting periods into which the year is divided. The average for the year is 26s. 11d. per cwt. (\$2.01 per bushel). Although there are small differences between the prices for 3 of the accounting periods and the corresponding 1960-61 prices, the average is the same for both years. These prices apply only to to millable wheat.

U.K. farmers sell wheat to private traders at regular market prices. After the end of each accounting period, the "at farm" prices received by all of the registered growers for wheat they sold during the period are averaged.

If the average falls short of the corresponding minimum or "standard" price, the government will pay each grower a "deficiency payment" equal to the difference times the number of bushels he sold and dispatched or delivered during the period. The seasonal "standard" prices are gradually increased to promote orderly marketing throughout the year.

WHEAT: United Kingdom, "standard" producer prices,
1960-61 and 1961-62

Accounting period:	1960-61	1961-62	1960-61	1961-62
	S. and d. per cwt.		U.S. dollars per bushel	
July-September.....	24 - 5	24 - 6	1.82	1.83
October-November....	25 - 11	25 - 11	1.93	1.93
December-February...	27 - 5	27 - 5	2.05	2.05
March-April.....	27 - 5	29 - 1	2.05	2.18
May-June.....	29 - 5	29 - 6	2.20	2.21
Average.....	26 - 11	26 - 11	2.01	2.01

The wheat deficiency payments to U.K. farmers during 1959-60 totaled £18.5 million (\$51,684,000). This figure was based on marketings of 53.8 million cwt. (100.4 million bushels) of eligible wheat, for an average of 6 s. 10.5d. per cwt. (about 51 cents per bushel). The corresponding figures for 1958-59 are a payment total of £18.3 million (\$51,125,000) for marketings of 49.2 million cwt. (91.8 million bushels), for an average of 7 s. 5.3 d. per cwt. (about 55.5 cents per bushel).

SUGAR PRODUCTION GOAL REDUCED BY FRANCE

France has again reduced its sugar production objective for 1961-62--this time by 240,000 short tons.

Because of the current sugar surplus, the government announced on March 16 that the new production goal, beginning October 1, would be about 1,637,000 short tons, raw value. The objective is only slightly more than one-half the record 3-million-ton outturn in 1960-61.

Sugar beet acreage in 1961 is down only about 20 percent from 1960, according to latest estimates, but yields this year are not expected to equal the phenomenal returns of last year.

BAGGING AND CORDAGE FIBER OUTPUT UNCHANGED IN CONGO

Republic of the Congo, including Ruanda-Urundi, produced an estimated 30 million pounds of bagging and cordage fibers in 1960, compared with 32 million in 1959 and 30 million in 1958.

The 1960 estimate includes about 400,000 pounds of sisal, and the remainder is urena lobata and punga. The uneasy political situation hampers production of fibers and their marketing from the interior.

Sisal is cultivated by Europeans on about 2,500 acres--part in Leopoldville Province, in the western portion of the Republic, and part in Ruanda-Urundi to the east. Punga, used in twines and bagging, grows wild and is harvested according to demand. Urena lobata, a substitute for jute, is grown in Leopoldville and Oriental Provinces under supervision of exporting companies. Both are often known as "Congo jute."

The only two bag factories in the Republic are located in Leopoldville Province, close to raw materials and transportation points. They produce about 10 million bags annually, mostly for domestic use. In 1960 the factories consumed about 9.7 million pounds of urena lobata and 13.4 million of punga fiber, using the lower grades.

The first quality of punga, first and second qualities of urena lobata, and about half of the sisal are exported. Principal markets are Belgium, West Germany, and Angola. Normally, few bags are exported.

Recent blockades of the northeastern part of the Republic, where most of the bags are used, left stocks accumulating at the factories. There were few exports of either fiber or bags in the latter half of 1960, but bag exports probably will increase.

BAGGING AND CORDAGE FIBERS: Republic of the Congo, exports,
1959 and estimated 1960

Country of destination	Urena lobota		Punga		Sisal	
	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Belgium.....	4,405	2,575	1,082	662	75	44
West Germany.....	1,936	1,135	163	110	145	88
Angola.....	225	448	1,307	1,102	0	0
Others.....	2	0	104	66	0	0
Total.....	6,568	4,158	2,656	1,940	220	132

Source: Bulletin Mensuel du Commerce Extérieur du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi, June 1960.

CANADIAN WHEAT AND FLOUR
EXPORTS CONTINUE UPWARD

Canadian wheat and flour exports from August 1960 through March 1961 were about 206 million bushels, or 6 percent above the same period a year earlier.

Exports from July 1960 through February 1961 were 195 million bushels, compared with 190 million in the first 8 months of 1959-60.

Wheat exports in July-February 1960-61 totaled 170 million bushels--up about 5 million. Larger shipments to Italy (12.4 million bushels, compared with 2.1 million a year earlier) and to Japan (36.8 million, compared with 28.6 million) accounted for most of the increase.

A large part of the gain was offset because no wheat was shipped to Poland, Iraq, and Algeria in July-February, compared with 8.3 million bushels a year earlier. Reduced shipments went to India, Pakistan, and the Union of South Africa.

Flour exports during July-February were 25.3 million bushels--slightly above those a year earlier. Small increases were made in shipments to Chile, Norway, Japan, and Lebanon. Exports to the United Kingdom and the Philippines were somewhat smaller.

WHEAT AND FLOUR: Canadian exports by country of destination, July-February 1959-60 and July-February 1960-61

Country of destination	July-February 1959-60			July-February 1960-61		
	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total
	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels
Western Hemisphere:						
United States	552	980	1,532	1,376	795	2,171
Central America	80	1,260	1,340	18	1,233	1,251
Federation of West Indies	1	3,340	3,341	2/	3,017	3,017
Chile	--	18	18	--	531	531
Ecuador	461	--	461	1,254	1	1,255
Peru	2,722	5	2,727	1,816	2	1,818
Venezuela	2,321	4	2,325	2,466	20	2,486
Others	812	1,042	1,854	701	1,499	2,200
Total	6,949	6,649	13,598	7,631	7,098	14,729
Europe:						
Austria	2,300	--	2,300	802	--	802
Belgium-Luxembourg	7,802	76	7,878	7,294	110	7,404
France	2,769	--	2,769	5,105	--	5,105
Germany, West	19,452	--	19,452	20,686	--	20,686
Italy	2,142	--	2,142	12,374	--	12,374
Netherlands	5,794	2	5,796	4,767	5	4,772
Norway	2,427	--	2,427	2,819	954	3,773
Poland	4,466	--	4,466	--	--	--
Switzerland	4,734	--	4,734	4,371	--	4,371
United Kingdom	52,715	9,389	62,104	51,005	9,139	60,144
Others	2,738	76	2,814	3,178	128	3,306
Total	107,339	9,543	116,882	112,401	10,336	122,737
Asia:						
India	5,940	--	5,940	3,955	--	3,955
Iraq	2,033	1	2,034	--	--	--
Israel	517	--	517	1,538	69	1,607
Japan	28,573	774	29,347	36,760	980	37,740
Lebanon	387	27	414	--	1,308	1,308
Pakistan	3,139	2/	3,139	1,718	2/	1,718
Philippines	1,120	3,199	4,319	431	1,669	2,100
Others	772	2,356	3,128	700	1,611	2,311
Total	42,481	6,357	48,838	45,102	5,637	50,739
Africa:						
Algeria	1,812	--	1,812	--	--	--
Ghana	--	1,083	1,083	--	1,218	1,218
Union of South Africa	2,787	--	2,787	1,065	--	1,065
Others	166	1,069	1,235	340	1,026	1,366
Total	4,765	2,152	6,917	1,405	2,244	3,649
Oceania	--	13	13	242	31	273
Unspecified 3/	3,629	--	3,629	3,291	--	3,291
World total	165,163	24,714	189,877	170,072	25,346	195,418

1/ In grain equivalent. 2/ Less than 500 bushels. 3/ Includes seed wheat (July-February 1959-60, and July-January 1960-61).

Compiled from records of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada.

U.S. AGAIN IMPORTS
NEW ZEALAND MEAT

Five ships are scheduled to sail from New Zealand in June and early July with 19,936,000 pounds of meat for the United States--2,016,000 for the West Coast and 17,920,000 for the East Coast.

Ship	Sailing date	Destination	Quantity
			1,000
			<u>Pounds</u>
Cap Corrientes.....	June 15	West Coast	1,344
Mariposa.....	do. 17	do.	448
Oriana.....	do. 17	do.	224
Port Victor.....	do. 24	East Coast	8,960
Sussex.....	July 11	do.	8,960

U.S. EXPORTS OF MOST LIVESTOCK
PRODUCTS LOWER IN MARCH

U.S. exports of lard, tallow, greases, pork, canned baby food, other canned meats, some natural casings, and mohair were lower in March than in the same month of 1960.

Lard exports in March were 39 percent below those of March 1960. Increased prices made it necessary for the U.K. shortening industry to replace lard with less expensive oils in its shortening mixes. Inedible tallow and grease exports were down 1 percent while edible tallow shipments decreased 30 percent.

Total red meat exports in March were 29 percent less than in March 1960. Pork shipments were down 42 percent owing to loss of the Cuban market. Canned baby food was down 50 percent and other canned meats 56 percent because shipments to Canada dropped sharply. However, exports of beef and veal, lamb and mutton, and all types of sausage increased.

Variety meat exports in March rose 18 percent above March 1960, and exports of hog casings were 20 percent larger. Other natural casings, however, dropped 17 percent.

Mohair exports in March were 18 percent below the same month of 1960, but exports in January-March 1961 were 54 percent larger than for the same period of the previous year.

Hide and skin exports continued at high levels in March, cattle hides averaging 56 percent and calf skins 121 percent higher than in March 1960.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS: U.S. exports of selected items, March 1960 and 1961
and January-March 1960 and 1961, with percentage change

(Product weight basis)

Commodity	March			January-March		
	1960	1961	Percent change	1960	1961	Percent change
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent
Lard.....	55,506	33,899	-39	174,566	114,357	-34
Inedible tallow & greases 1/.....	158,185	155,849	-1	456,937	411,933	-1
Edible tallow & greases 2/.....	1,124	688	-39	3,507	2,770	-21
Meat:						
Beef and veal.....	2,201	2,370	+8	6,853	8,129	+18
Pork.....	7,828	4,579	-42	18,192	18,565	+2
Lamb and mutton.....	116	209	+80	284	330	+16
Sausage:						
Except canned.....	130	142	+9	475	546	+15
Canned.....	88	122	+39	259	415	+60
Baby food, canned.....	357	213	-40	706	347	-51
Other canned meats.....	205	90	-56	669	309	-54
Total red meat.....	10,925	7,725	-29	27,438	28,641	+4
Variety meats.....	8,939	10,575	+18	32,024	30,332	-5
Sausage casings:						
Hog.....	870	1,041	+20	2,342	2,507	+7
Other natural.....	514	428	-17	1,487	1,268	-15
Mohair.....	1,991	1,636	-18	3,261	5,038	+54
	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000	
	pieces	pieces		pieces	pieces	
Hides and skins:						
Cattle.....	572	837	+46	1,650	2,182	+32
Calf.....	151	334	+121	439	745	+70
Kip.....	31	56	+81	106	157	+48
Sheep and lamb.....	184	289	+57	388	587	+51

1/ Includes inedible tallow, oleic acid or red oil, stearic acid, and other inedible animal greases, fats, and oils. 2/ Includes edible tallow, oleo oil and stearin, oleo stock and shortenings, animal fat, excluding lard.

U.S. Department of Commerce.

AUSTRALIAN BEEF SHIPPED TO U.S. AND CANADA

Three ships are en route from Australia to the United States and Canada with 9,437,120 pounds of frozen beef.

Ship	Sailing date	Destination ^{1/}	Quantity
			<u>Pounds</u>
Gudrun Bakke.....	April 27	Los Angeles	197,120
		San Francisco	15,680
		Portland	22,400
		Seattle	141,120
Nottingham.....	April 29	New York	6,798,400
		Philadelphia	613,760
		Boston	842,240
		Halifax	78,400
		Toronto	56,000
		Montreal	91,840
Mariposa.....	April 29	Los Angeles	309,120
		San Francisco	271,040

^{1/} Cities listed indicate location of purchaser and usually the port of arrival and general market area, but the meat may be diverted to other areas for sale.

EAST GERMANY TO USE CASH BONUSES IN RAISING HOG PRODUCTION

East Germany will pay its hog producers cash premiums to assure production of an adequate supply of pigs and marketable pork in 1961-62.

For each sow farrowing between January 1 and April 30 and between November 1 and December 31, a premium of 30 East German marks (U.S. \$1.61 at the official rate of exchange that overvalues the mark) will be paid. For sows farrowing between May 1 and October 31, the premium will be 20 marks (\$1.07). For every suckling over 6 per litter that is raised to 8 weeks of age, a premium of 12 marks will be paid in the winter and 8 in the summer (\$0.64 and \$0.42, respectively).

Premiums will be paid to all hog producers--collective and state farms, as well as to private farmers. Payments will be made immediately in cash by local governments or community councils. The East German Ministry of Agriculture will make reimbursements.

U.S. SHIPS RECORD QUANTITIES OF GRASS AND LEGUME SEED

U.S. exports of grass and legume seed from July 1960 through March 1961 amounted to 55,757,000 pounds, exceeding the previous record for an entire year by 12 percent.

Europe received two-thirds of these exports--3,242,000 pounds of alfalfa seed, 4,599,000 of clover seed, and 29,286,000 of the various grass seeds, or a total of 37,127,000. The amount shipped to Europe during the entire 1959-60 crop year was 28,521,000 pounds.

GRASS AND LEGUME SEEDS: U.S. exports, March 1961, with comparisons

Kind of seed	March		July 1 - March 31	
	1960	1961	1959-60	1960-61
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
Alfalfa, certified.....	036	508	4,791	5,421
Alfalfa, uncertified.....	158	164	3,864	3,209
Total.....	464	672	8,655	8,630
Alsike.....	2	7	335	87
Ladino.....	150	185	1,458	1,584
Clovers, other.....	121	195	2,848	5,575
Bentgrass.....	345	376	3,621	2,689
Fescues.....	621	956	4,153	7,176
Kentucky bluegrass.....	143	157	461	1,239
Orchardgrass.....	8	3	106	188
Redtop.....	600	23	368	1,450
Timothy.....	241	426	2,934	3,409
Grasses, other.....	1,082	1,087	11,636	23,730
Total.....	3,237	4,087	36,575	55,757

ARGENTINA ANNOUNCES RELIEF PLAN FOR DROUGHT-STRICKEN AREAS

Emergency relief will be extended to ranchers in drought-stricken areas of Argentina, according to the country's new Secretary of Agriculture.

Dry weather in the main beef-producing areas has stimulated early action by the government to prevent losses in cattle numbers and in beef production. A 25-percent reduction in freight rates has been offered to

producers who want to move cattle to better pastures or transport forage to areas in short supply. A more liberal banking policy has been authorized on the granting of loans to transport cattle and purchase feed. Special credit sources have been established to maintain breeding stock and calves.

Although much of the beef-producing area has been dry, conditions are not as severe as last year. The government has instituted relief measures early enough for producers to receive maximum benefits.

COLOMBIA RAISES SUPPORT PRICE FOR CORN

Colombia has increased the support price of 1961-crop corn to (1) encourage production and (2) make possible sufficient government purchases to build up reserves required for regulation of the market.

The price in the most important corn-producing area, according to the Colombian National Institute of Supplies, will be 70 pesos per carga (U.S. \$2.12 per bushel), compared with 55 pesos per carga (\$1.67 per bushel) in 1960.

This area, consisting of Tolima, Huila, Caldas, Valle, Cundinamarca, and Meta Provinces, produces about two-thirds of all the corn grown in the country. The new prices apply to both white and yellow hybrid corn--bagged, dry, and clean.

The 1961 support prices in the other 3 producing areas, in pesos per carga with the dollar per bushel equivalents in parentheses, are: San Martin, Puerto Lopez, and Granada Provinces--65.5 (\$1.99); Bolivar and Cordoba Provinces--63.0 (\$1.91); and Magdalena Province--58.5 (\$1.77).

Whenever necessary, the producer price is maintained at the support levels by purchases at the respective prices by the National Institute of Supplies of all quantities of corn offered by farmers. However, since Colombia's corn production has been falling short of domestic requirements, regular market producer prices have at times been considerably above the support levels, and imports have recently been necessary.

U.S. AND CANADA IMPORT MORE MEXICAN FROZEN STRAWBERRIES

The United States and Canada imported 26.5 million pounds of frozen strawberries from Mexico between January 1 and May 15.

Of this amount, the United States purchased 24.2 million pounds, compared with 25.0 million during all of 1960. Canadian imports during the same period were 2.3 million pounds, compared with 3.3 million in 1960.

Reports indicate that the Mexican season is ahead of last year.

WOOL PRODUCTION ESTIMATE REDUCED IN NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand Wool Commission has revised its wool production estimate for 1960-61 downward to 580 million pounds--15 million below earlier predictions.

With the selling season about over, there is little reason to believe that production will be higher than the aforementioned quantity. The commission gives no reason for the previous high estimate.

Exports of raw wool from July through December 1960 were 220 million pounds--8 percent less than in the same period of 1959.

The commission reports holdings of only 680,000 pounds of raw wool as of April 30--172,000 in New Zealand and 508,000 in London.

INDIAN CASTOR SEED PRODUCTION DOWN

Indian castor seed production has been officially estimated at 100,000 metric tons for 1960-61--down 7.5 percent from last year and the lowest since 1957-58. The decline is attributed to lower acreage and unfavorable weather during the growing season.

CASTOR SEED: India, acreage and production, 1956-61

Item	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
Acreage					
(000 acres).....	1,504	1,184	1,203	1,168	1,135
Production					
(000 metric tons):	124	90	114	108	100

INDIAN PEANUT OUTTURN RISES

India officially estimates its peanut production for 1960-61 at 4.4 million metric tons--up 10.5 percent from the 1959-60 revised estimate of 4.0 million.

Favorable weather and a 4-percent acreage expansion contributed to the increase in production.

The states of Andhra Pradesh and Mysore have adopted the improved method of random sample crop cutting to estimate crops. This system has resulted in a sharp decline of 455,000 metric tons for the 1959-60 crop. The method is used to estimate 83.5 percent of peanut acreage and 74.0 percent of production.

PEANUTS: India, acreage and production, annual 1957-61 1/

Item	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
Acreage (1,000 acres)....:	14,876	14,575	14,864	15,455
Production in the shell :				
(1,000 metric tons)....:	4,507	4,889	4,005	4,424
<u>1/</u> Acreage and production prior to 1959-60 have not been adjusted by the new sampling method.				

ECUADORAN SUPPLY OF EDIBLE FATS
AND OILS TO INCREASE

Ecuador's supply of edible fats and oils, consisting of lard and soybean palm, coconut, and olive oils, is expected to total 16,000 short tons in 1961--moderately larger than last year's supply.

The increase will be due mainly to a somewhat larger production of lard and palm oil, a 10-percent increase in imports of palm oil, and a slight increase in imports of coconut oil.

EDIBLE FATS AND OILS: Ecuador's supply and disposition,
annual 1959-61

Item	1959	1960 <u>1/</u>	1961 <u>2/</u>
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	short	short	short
	<u>tons</u>	<u>tons</u>	<u>tons</u>
Supply:			
Opening stocks.....:	1.6	0.9	1.3
Production.....:	7.2	7.5	7.9
Imports.....:	6.2	6.9	6.8
Total.....:	15.0	15.3	16.0
Distribution:			
Exports.....:	0	0	0
Consumption.....:	14.1	14.0	14.8
Ending stocks.....:	0.9	1.3	1.2
Total.....:	15.0	15.3	16.0
Per capita disappearance...:	7.0	6.8	7.0

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Forecast.

Compiled from official and other sources.

Production of coconut oil is declining rapidly because coconut palms are being destroyed by disease, and this drop is expected to continue until the disease is checked or all the palms are destroyed.

Ecuador does not produce soybean oil. Imports, mainly from the United States, have increased considerably, largely replacing coconut and cottonseed oil imports. Soybean oil imports, which in 1959 were 2,526 tons, increased to 4,114 in 1960 and this year are expected to approximate 3,860.

Palm oil production increased from 550 tons in 1959 to 585 in 1960 and is expected to reach 615 in 1961. The government is intensely interested in increasing production, and credit arrangements for producer expansion reportedly have been requested for this purpose (Foreign Crops and Markets, March 20, 1961). The bulk of the palm and coconut oils imported in 1960 came from the United States.

TRANSSHIPMENTS OF MEXICAN COTTON DOWN SHARPLY IN DECEMBER

Transshipments of 37,000 bales (500 pounds gross) of Mexican cotton through U.S. ports in December 1960 were 41 percent below the 63,000 shipped in November 1960 and only half of the 75,000 moved in December of the previous season.

Transshipments during August-December 1960 amounted to 401,000 bales--17 percent less than August-December 1959 shipments of 486,000. Quantities shipped to principal destinations during the first 5 months of the current season, with comparable 1959-60 figures in parentheses, were: West Germany 102,000 bales (89,000); France 72,000 (72,000); Italy 51,000 (39,000); Japan 46,000 (96,000); United Kingdom 18,000 (42,000); Belgium 17,000 (21,000); and Switzerland 17,000 (24,000).

U.S. ports through which most Mexican transshipments moved in the August-December period were: Brownsville 376,000 bales; San Diego 18,000; Galveston 3,000; Houston 2,000; and Corpus Christi 1,000.

U.S. COTTON LINTERS IMPORTS LOWER

U.S. imports of cotton linters, mostly felting qualities, totaled 93,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in the first two-thirds (August-March) of the current season. This figure was 29 percent less than the 131,000 bales imported during the corresponding 1959-60 period.

Quantities imported from principal sources during the first 8 months of 1960-61, with comparable 1959-60 figures in parentheses, were: Mexico 52,000 bales (88,000); U.S.S.R. 16,000 (24,000); Syria 5,000 (0); Brazil 5,000 (2,000); Argentina 3,000 (0); and Belgium 3,000 (1,000).

Linters imports during March amounted to 14,000 bales, compared with 10,000 in February 1961 and 17,000 in March 1960.

CEYLON'S 1960 COPRA, COCONUT OIL EXPORTS
DOWN ONE-FOURTH FROM 1959

Ceylon's exports of copra and coconut oil in calendar 1960 totaled 73,867 long tons, oil basis, a decline of nearly one-fourth from the volume shipped in 1959. Copra exports were down nearly one-third and coconut oil shipments were off one-fifth from 1959. Coconut oil exports to Europe fell nearly 40 percent while those to Asia rose about 30 percent from the year earlier. About 10,000 fresh coconuts were exported against a mere 500 in 1959.

COPRA AND COCONUT OIL: Ceylon, exports by country of destination,
average 1935-39, annual 1959 and 1960

Continent and country of destination	Copra			Coconut oil		
	Average 1935-39	1959 1/	1960 1/	Average 1935-39	1959 1/	1960 1/
	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons
North America:						
Canada.....	---	---	---	8,523	9,867	10,568
United States.....	1	---	---	30	2,196	1,096
Other.....	---	---	---	2,089	285	60
Total.....	1	---	---	10,642	12,348	11,724
South America.....	---	---	---	1,433	353	1,120
Europe:						
Denmark.....	1,605	---	---	35	---	---
France.....	354	---	---	347	322	704
Germany, West.....	2/1,482	---	---	2/1,200	12,217	40
Greece.....	1,526	---	---	120	---	---
Italy.....	6,541	---	---	1,724	14,288	16,143
Netherlands.....	1,929	---	---	1,976	8,394	5,700
Poland.....	126	---	---	8	---	---
Sweden.....	---	---	---	3,573	---	---
Switzerland.....	---	---	---	84	---	75
United Kingdom.....	420	---	---	14,160	3,449	2,141
U.S.S.R.....	---	---	---	---	1,025	2,250
Other.....	2,518	---	50	3,930	3/3,903	50
Total.....	16,501	---	50	27,157	43,598	27,103
Africa:						
Egypt.....	425	---	---	2,433	513	50
Morocco.....	---	---	---	101	1,121	678
Union of South Africa.....	---	---	---	2,597	223	148
Other.....	6	---	---	1,253	118	73
Total.....	431	---	---	6,384	1,975	949
Asia:						
Burma.....	---	355	864	1,453	435	2,538
China, Mainland.....	---	2,617	---	---	200	---
India.....	4/42,549	38,008	26,548	4/10,710	1,826	41
Iran.....	---	212	81	6	3,954	3,216
Iraq.....	20	66	180	315	150	95
Pakistan.....	4/	1,122	1,374	4/	3,867	8,168
Syria.....	60	215	---	164	415	35
Other.....	365	14	35	593	289	288
Total.....	42,994	42,609	29,082	13,241	11,136	14,381
Oceania.....	---	---	---	154	10	237
Grand total.....	59,927	42,609	29,132	5/59,013	69,420	55,514

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Total Germany. 3/ 15 tons to Finland, 389 tons to Belgium, and 3,499 tons to Lithuania. 4/ Pakistan included with India. 5/ Includes 2 tons to ships' stores.

Compiled from official sources.

JAPAN TO IMPORT MORE SOYBEANS AND SOYBEAN MEAL

Japan faces a serious shortage of oilseed meals owing to the sudden growth of its commercial feed industry.

Soybeans, the principal source of such meals, have been imported primarily for food and oil requirements. Cake and meal imports have been controlled.

To meet the tight supply situation, the government has imported soybeans and arranged with crushers to have all meal produced therefrom reserved for feed rather than food. Imports of soybeans for feed, however, have had only limited effect on the overall cake and meal supply situation. Thus, small quantities of soybean meal imports occasionally have been authorized.

Imports of whole soybeans, as well as the cakes and meals of almost all oilseeds except soybeans, are expected to be liberalized about July 1 (Foreign Crops and Markets, May 8, 1961). A decision apparently has been made not to liberalize soybean cake and meal as was reported likely earlier.

Because the eventual effects of these policy changes are difficult to foresee, the government is planning to import 20,000 metric tons of soybeans for feed. In addition, 126,000 tons of soybeans for feed are expected to be imported through nongovernment channels under special authority that provides for a reduction in the usual soybean import duty.

To assure adequate supplies, Japan is planning to license imports of at least 70,000 tons of oilseed cakes and/or meals during the Japanese fiscal year 1961 (April 1961-March 1962). Of this quantity, 53,000 tons probably will be purchased during the first quarter, prior to the effective date of liberalization. Of the 53,000 tons, 29,000 tons of soybean meal already have been purchased from the United States at a reported price of \$98.50 per metric ton (\$89.36 per short ton), c. and f., and an additional 1,000 tons have been purchased from the U.S.S.R. at \$95.00 (\$86.18), c. and f.

CANADA TO USE LESS SOYBEAN OIL

The upward trend in consumption of soybean oil in Canada probably will be reversed in 1961, reflecting a sharp rise in price.

Most of the oil is used in the manufacture of margarine and shortening, although considerable quantities are consumed in salad and cooking oils and in fish canning.

Most of Canada's soybean oil is produced from U.S. soybeans, imports of which totaled 15.2 million bushels in 1960--equivalent to about 165 million pounds of oil. In addition, net imports of soybean oil, all from the United States, reached 14.7 million pounds in 1960. Canada exported

2.2 million bushels of soybeans--about one-third of its production--to the United Kingdom. Canada, as a member of the Commonwealth, exports soybeans to the United Kingdom duty-free, whereas U.S. soybeans are subject to a 5-percent ad valorem duty.

EDIBLE VEGETABLE, ANIMAL, AND MARINE FAT: Canada, quantities available for consumption, 1958-60

Item	1958	1959	1960
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Vegetable oils: <u>1/</u>			
Soybean oil.....	149.5	173.5	199.8
Cottonseed.....	25.5	37.3	45.8
Coconut.....	53.9	39.7	35.5
Palm and palm kernel.....	40.5	31.7	18.2
Peanut.....	21.5	10.2	7.1
Olive.....	3.0	3.2	3.6
Total.....	286.7	295.6	310.0
Animal fats: <u>2/</u>			
Butter.....	312.3	300.2	290.7
Lard.....	148.1	179.4	168.1
Marine oils <u>1/</u>	50.2	26.4	9.2
Animal and marine.....	510.6	506.0	468.0
Grand total.....	797.3	801.6	778.0

1/ Excludes rapeseed oil. Production plus imports less exports.
Stock data not available. 2/ Domestic disappearance.

MAJOR VEGETABLE AND FISH OILS: Canadian prices at Toronto

Date	Soybean oil	Malayan palm oil	Ceylon coconut oil	Br. Columbia herring oil
	Cents per pound	Cents per pound	Cents per pound	Cents per pound
1960				
January-March.....	10.05	11.21	16.90	8.38
April-June.....	10.88	10.89	14.33	---
July-September....	11.80	10.65	12.63	---
October-December..	12.57	11.22	12.58	8.93
1961				
January-March.....	15.39	11.38	12.29	9.44
April 1.....	16.75	11.25	---	---

CEYLON'S 1960 EXPORTS OF
DESICCATED COCONUT UP

Ceylon's exports of 61,532 short tons of desiccated coconut in 1960 were up 5 percent from those of 1959 but were 3 percent below 1958 shipments.

Exports to Europe, South America, and Asia were up from 1959, while shipments to North America and Africa decreased. The United Kingdom and West Germany were the major markets, taking 35 percent and 17 percent of the total, respectively.

DESICCATED COCONUT: Ceylon, exports by country of
destination, annual 1958-60

Country of destination	1958	1959 1/	1960 1/	Country of destination	1958	1959 1/	1960 1/
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons		Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
North America:				Eastern Europe:			
Canada.....	3,581	3,157	3,542	Czechoslovakia:	---	110	220
Cuba.....	52	50	8	Germany, East..	---	833	2,145
United States...	368	1,845	95	Hungary.....	---	6	118
Other.....	54	88	80	Yugoslavia.....	---	168	47
Total.....	4,055	5,140	3,725	Total.....	---	1,117	2,530
South America:				Africa:			
Argentina.....	---	---	379	Egypt.....	1,255	705	322
Chile.....	13	78	140	Kenya.....	39	42	45
Peru.....	155	148	172	Morocco.....	176	106	214
Uruguay.....	40	53	95	Mozambique.....	61	80	86
Total.....	208	279	786	Sudan.....	2	18	14
Western Europe:				Union of South Africa:	1,441	1,454	1,453
Austria.....	16	---	11	Other.....	21	20	34
Belgium.....	1,237	1,173	1,344	Total.....	2,995	2,425	2,168
Denmark.....	1,721	1,443	1,786	Asia:			
Finland.....	2	10	72	Aden.....	58	65	68
France.....	831	676	606	Burma.....	30	87	55
Germany, West...	11,617	11,907	10,340	Cyprus.....	15	47	25
Greece.....	138	136	124	Hong Kong.....	352	338	434
Ireland.....	356	376	393	India.....	260	55	9
Italy.....	872	839	1,262	Iraq.....	37	125	218
Malta.....	30	37	44	Israel.....	---	3	68
Netherlands.....	3,106	3,599	3,913	Japan.....	53	10	36
Norway.....	822	649	643	Jordan.....	26	29	85
Portugal.....	240	228	415	Lebanon.....	110	89	122
Sweden.....	1,628	1,339	1,634	Pakistan.....	201	264	396
Switzerland.....	22	25	37	Saudi Arabia...	28	35	57
Spain.....	45	55	---	Syria.....	128	131	324
United Kingdom..	25,650	19,492	21,653	Other.....	63	69	91
Other.....	25	7	16	Total.....	1,361	1,347	1,988
Total.....	48,358	41,991	44,293	Oceania:			
				Australia.....	5,593	4,953	4,688
				New Zealand...	978	1,536	1,354
				Total.....	6,571	6,489	6,042
				Grand total.....	63,548	58,788	61,532

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from official sources.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Official Business

PHILIPPINE APRIL COCONUT OIL,
DESICCATED COCONUT DATA REVISED

Philippine coconut oil exports in April have been revised to 4,126 long tons. Desiccated coconut shipments are now reported as follows: United States, 3,501 short tons (Pacific Coast, 710; Atlantic Coast, 2,537; Gulf Coast, 250; Hawaii, 2; Puerto Rico, 2); Canada, 21; Denmark, 8; France, 5; West Germany, 276; Netherlands, 20; Norway, 2; Spain, 55; United Kingdom, 10; Union of South Africa, 2; Japan, 2; Australia, 95; total, 3,997 tons (Foreign Crops and Markets, May 22, 1961).